

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 45

Normally, the President's Report precedes the program year. However, due to the challenges the Council faced this year in getting *Madroño* onto a normal publishing schedule following the resignation of the previous editor, this report comes at the end of the program year. Nevertheless, welcome to the California Botanical Society's 1998–1999 program year. New and returning Council Members for the program year include myself, Past President, Wayne Ferren; First Vice-President, Susan D'Alcamo; Second Vice-President, Dave Keil; Recording Secretary, Roxanne Bittman; Corresponding Secretary, Sue Bainbridge; Treasurer, Mary Butterwick; Council Members, Jim Shevock, Margriet Wetherwax, and Diane Elam; Graduate Student Representative, Dennis Wall; and the new Editor of *Madroño*, Kristina Schierenbeck. The Society thanks each of you! New Council Members for this program year included Dave Keil and Diane Elam.

Susan D'Alcamo, in her second year as First Vice-President, organized an excellent slate of six speakers for the 1998–1999 Lecture Series. The lectures are held on the third Thursday of each month from October through May, in the Valley Life Sciences Building at the University of California, Berkeley Campus. The lectures have been very well attended this year by members as well as many non-members. The Council appreciates the efforts of Dennis Wall in helping with room reservations, projection equipment, and the reception. An informal reception follows each presentation which allows an opportunity to mingle with the speaker, other botanists, and guests. Refreshments are furnished by the Jepson and University Herbaria. All members are invited and encouraged to attend the talks and receptions. We thank Brent Mishler and the Jepson and University herbaria for providing space for the Council meetings, Lecture Series, and receptions.

Dave Keil organized an outstanding Annual Banquet which was held on 20 February 1999, at the California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo. President Little presented "Outstanding Service Awards" to Board Members in recognition of their contributions to the organization. Recipients included Wayne Ferren, Diane Ikeda, Dave Keil, Mary Butterwick, Roxanne Bittman, Susan Bainbridge, Margriet Wetherwax, Staci Markos, and Tony

Morosco. Our guest speaker was Dr. Sherwin Carlquist, Research Associate at Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, who spoke on "Three Discoveries."

Graduate Student Meetings are normally sponsored by the California Botanical Society every other year, and were last held at U.C. Berkeley in 1998. However, due to the high level of interest expressed by Cal Poly students, a decision was made by the Society to sponsor Graduate Student Meetings at Cal Poly on the same day as the Annual Banquet. Graduate Student Representative Dennis Wall coordinated with David Keil's students to make it happen. Together, the graduate students made all arrangements for the meetings. Many thanks to all the Council members who assisted with these meetings.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of Mary Butterwick. This is her third and final year as Treasurer for the Society. Her replacement has not been found. Please contact any Council Member if you, or someone you know, would be interested in volunteering for this position. This is also the final year for Roxanne Bittman as Recording Secretary, a position she has held for 7 years. She has been very faithful in attending virtually all Council meetings during this period. Her replacement for the 1999–2000 program year will be Dean Kelch. Susan Bainbridge has done an outstanding job as Corresponding Secretary and has been very diligent in responding to requests for information from members and non-members. Sue has volunteered to remain as Corresponding Secretary for one more year. The Society also appreciates the contributions of Council Members Jim Shevock, Margriet Wetherwax, and Diane Elam. This is Margriet's last year as Council Member. She will be replaced by Bien Tan. The Society is fortunate that Kristina Schierenbeck volunteered to be Editor of *Madroño*. She has done an outstanding job of working through a backlog of manuscripts and is proceeding to get *Madroño* back on schedule. Dr. Fossee Tahbaz, at the U.C. Herbarium Berkeley, will replace Dave Keil as Second Vice-President for the 1999–2000 program year.

—R. JOHN LITTLE, PH.D.
17 May 1999